

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11

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P R 301313Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1080

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4210

FOR AID/SER/H

NAIROBI FOR GOODSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, KU

SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: KUWAIT
REQUEST FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE

1. AS A RESULT OF AID OFFICE OF HOUSING (SER/H) TEAM VISIT, KUWAIT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (KNHA) HAS REQUESTED THAT SER/H PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE. REQUEST WAS MADE IN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR SIGNED BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO ALSO CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY. LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 29 AND TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO AID SER/H.

2. SPECIFICALLY, KNHA HAS REQUESTED THAT SER/H PROVIDE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM FOR FIRST PHASE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. TEAM WOULD ASSIST KNHA IN ITS ORGANIZATION, FORMULATION OF PRIORITIES AND POLICIES AND IDENTIFICATION OF INITIAL PROJECTS. THIS ASSISTANCE, TO BE FULLY PAID FOR BY GOK, IS NEEDED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

3. GOK AND EMBASSY UNDERSTAND THAT REQUEST REQUIRES AID/ WASHINGTON DETERMINATION THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE IS IN U.S.
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INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE SECTION 607 OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.

GOK BOARD ORALLY AND IN ITS LETTER STRESSED IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY THEY ATTACHED TO WORK OF KNHA. FACT IS, IT IS MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. THEREFORE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE WILL DO MUCH TO ENHANCE US/KUWAIT POLITICAL RELATIONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOK. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THAT US REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS \$700 MILLION PROGRAM COULD QUITE EASILY RESULT IN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL BENEFITS FOR U.S. IN SHORT, EMBASSY POSITION IS THAT THIS ASSISTANCE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF U.S. PURPOSES IN KUWAIT. THEREFORE, REQUEST IMMEDIATE APPROVAL BY AID/WASHINGTON.

4. DETAILS OF REQUESTED ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY PETER KIMM, SER/H. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE TEAM ARRIVAL HERE GOK HAS REQUESTED THAT FIRST PHASE SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE BE BASED ON EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND LONG TERM FOLLOW-ON ASSISTANCE BE BASED ON CONTRACT SIMILAR TO THAT USED BY FHWA. GOK HAS AGREED TO ADVANCE PAYMENT INTO REVOLVING FUND FOR FIRST PHASE ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY URGES ACCEPTANCE OF THESE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

5. EMBASSY AND GOK MOST PLEASED WITH PROMPT RESPONSE OF AID/WASHINGTON AND HIGH PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF SER/H TEAM AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. FOR ITS PART, GOK EXTENDED CONSIDERABLE WARM HOSPITALITY TO AID OFFICIALS. KNHA DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS BRIEFED PRESS ON POSSIBLE USG ROLE HERE AND HAS STATED THAT SER/H ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN SOUGHT BECAUSE OF THAT OFFICE'S LONG EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD.
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